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Indian Solar Economy Brings New Vocation for Women

India has started to make significant advances in developing solar power technologies for the poor. There are now whole villages using solar energy and improving their standard of living. Various companies and projects are selling inexpensive solar appliances – from cooking stoves to lanterns and power generators – across the country. This new solar power 'grid' is also bringing further economic opportunities: jobs for people to repair and maintain the new equipment.

An interesting initiative is turning the need to repair and maintain solar-powered equipment into a job opportunity for poor women.

More than 1.7 billion people around the world have no domestic electricity supply, of whom more than 500 million live in sub-Saharan Africa, and 400 million in India (World Bank). Some 600,000 Indian villages lack an electrical supply. India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has pledged "power for all" by 2012. An ambitious goal, and one that acknowledges that without electricity, many development goals remain dreams that will never be achieved.

Being able to see at night, for example, unleashes a vast range of possibilities – such as being able to work or study later – but for the very poor, lighting is often the most expensive household expense, soaking up 10 to 15 percent of income.

The power of the sun can help transform this situation. According to Greenpeace (<http://www.greenpeace.org/international>), India could generate 10 percent of its electricity from solar power by 2030.

In the Indian State of Rajasthan, more than 30,000 homes in 800 villages have turned to solar power for lighting and cooking needs. It is this increasing solar power grid that the Barefoot College (<http://www.barefootcollege.org>) based in Tilonia – where it was founded over 30 years ago – has turned to as a new economic opportunity. The College is training women to be solar engineers, developing both useful skills and a new income source. So far, Barefoot College itself has solar electrified some 350 villages across India and dozens more in sub-Saharan Africa and even war-torn Afghanistan.

The College prides itself on stripping out academic jargon while inspiring confidence in students' innate talents and skills so they can take on new vocations.

The solar engineers – many of whom are illiterate – are taught by their peers. Given a box of tools and hardware, the students undertake practical projects to learn-by-doing how the solar devices work and can be repaired. They are introduced to technical terms and concepts and learn how to wire circuits and do daily repairs. "It is only, we have found, an illiterate woman who is a teacher who can actually train an illiterate woman who is a trainer," the college's founder, Bunker Roy, told the BBC. "They have the patience, tolerance and improvisation." Roy says the training teaches more knowledge of the technical aspects of solar power than a typical student would glean from an undergraduate university degree.

The Barefoot College takes its inspiration from former

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Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohandas_Karamchand_Gandhi), who felt the wisdom, knowledge and skills already existing in rural villages should be the basis for any development. He also believed deploying sophisticated technology in poor communities should be done on their terms to avoid exploitation.

The College is a passionate believer in the inherent skills and abilities of the poor to improve their conditions. It eschews formal qualifications, believing these can be as much a hindrance as a help, trapping people in rigid methodologies.

The Barefoot College has been working on solar electrification in poor and rural villages since 1989. It has used similar techniques to train teachers and teach medical skills.

The course has successfully attracted sponsored students from as far away as Africa. Sarka Mussara, a 56-year-old widowed grandmother from the West African nation of Mauritania, had never attended school or even left her village before coming to India on a UN sponsorship.

"We started little by little learning the solar energy system," she told PBS. "Day by day and little by little we were able to put things together."

The solar engineers become highly skilled and can even fabricate complex components like a charge controller (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charge_controller) when they are back in the village.

One of the additional benefits of training skilled solar engineers is the more confident role these women play in their communities when they return. They often take the lead on other projects in the village.

The College also picks the tough cases: only villages that are inaccessible, remote or non-electrified get help. Its approach is to have a meeting to introduce the benefits of solar lighting to the community. If the community wants it, then a village committee is formed. Any household that wants solar power has to pay a small fee, no matter how poor. This is to ensure they feel a sense of ownership of the new technology.

Some members of the community are then selected to be trained as "Barefoot Solar Engineers," or BSEs. They will install, repair and maintain the solar lighting units for at least five years. A workshop is set up to carry out repairs fully equipped with tools and replacement parts. The solar engineers attend a six-month course at the College, leading to work for at least five years.

The Barefoot College encourages middle-aged women and widows and single mothers to become engineers. Experience has shown them to be the most reliable and less prone to moving to the city after training.

Links

D.light Design is dedicated to bringing modern lighting and power to more than 1.6 billion people globally currently living without electricity. They aim to be the number one player in off-grid lighting and power solutions worldwide.

Website: <http://www.dlightdesign.com>

Solar Power Answers is a one-stop-shop for everything to do with solar power. It has a design manual and guides to the complex world of solar power equipment.

Website: <http://www.solar-power-answers.co.uk/index.php>

Sun King solar lantern: The lantern provides 16 hours of light for a day's charge.

Website: <http://www.greenlightplanet.com/ourusers.html>

Woman Wants African Farming to be Cool

Can farming be cool? Especially on a continent where it has long been associated with hardship and poverty, can agriculture be attractive to a young generation looking for big opportunities? A young woman in Nigeria thinks so and is on a mission to show farming is a great way to get ahead in modern Africa. And she hopes more people attracted to farming will boost the continent's food security and reduce costly imports.

Cynthia Mosunmola Umoru's company, Honeysuckle PTL Ventures (http://www.tootoo.com/d-c3015227-Honeysuckles_PtL_Ventures/), is based in Lagos, the business capital of Nigeria. The West African country has become dependent on food imports, despite many attempts to modernise its agricultural sector.

The country's heavy dependence on oil exports for its income has led to poor investment in its domestic economy. Over 80 percent of Nigeria's university graduates struggle to find work. And it is these two problems – food security and high unemployment among the country's young, educated and ambitious – that Umoru wants to change.

Leading by example, Umoru has set up a successful and modern agribusiness focusing on high-quality food products using modern packaging and fast delivery. She produces meat products, from seafood like shrimps and prawns to snails, beef, chicken, and birds. Her niche is to deliver the product however the customer wishes: fresh, frozen or processed. Her business has its own farms and ponds but also has developed a sophisticated network with other farmers, providing them with standard contracts and benefits. This extra capacity means she can meet the demand and handle large volume orders.

She is proudly self-taught. "I didn't have a mentor in farming! Though I have other mentors," Umoru told the Guardian Life Magazine. "My knowledge of agribusiness has been largely from personal education and research. The Internet has served greatly as my resource bank."

Umoru was initially on the path to study medicine, but had that dream upset by riots in the late 1990s. She then moved on to study zoology at Lagos State University. In her final year, she became interested in agribusiness. Her company was officially registered in 2004, but she had already begun at university providing meat products to fast-food outlets in Lagos.

"It took five years to gain relevance," she said. "My involvement in the agribusiness sector is really impacting people, particularly young people like me, who I always hear say 'If you are involved with farming then it is probably not as bad as it seems'. Farming, before now in Nigeria, was termed business of low-lives and with the barrier to entry being so high for young people to actively participate."

"I have successfully, in my little way, impressed on my generation that farming could be glamorous and cool enough for us to trade places with the business executive in the large conglomerate and also the bank's middle management cadre, which is the initial attraction for most young graduate(s) in Nigeria."

She is not shy talking about how rough it was in the beginning: "As a young entrepreneur, in my very early days, I lost a lot of the seed capital I got from financial mentors to poor and bad business decisions I took because there was no one to talk to."

Overall in sub-Saharan Africa, the long-term prospects for agriculture are good. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) found in a 2009 paper that "the sub-Saharan agricultural sector — 80 percent of which consists of smallholder farmers — grew more than 3.5 percent in 2008, well above the 2 percent rate of population growth."

Sub-Saharan Africa's population is predicted to grow from 770 million in 2005 to 1.5 to 2 billion in 2050 (FAO). Despite rapid migration from the countryside to cities and the growth in urban population, the absolute number of rural people is also likely to continue to increase.

Agriculture is the motor for rural development, poverty and hunger reduction in sub-Saharan Africa. The FAO paper said that agricultural growth in sub-Saharan Africa is likely to be led by domestic and intra-African demand for food commodities due to urbanization and the growing population.

African farming has been able to benefit from rising global food prices and demand. The policy environment has also become more favourable, according to the FAO. The paper found "There is a particular need for programmes and policies to increase the capacity of smallholder farmers to enter dynamic sectors of national, regional and international markets."

African farming can see serious productivity gains if it changes and it takes on

new techniques. At the moment only 3 percent of the region's food crops are produced using irrigation, compared to more than 20 percent globally. The irony is that Nigeria has already hatched one of the world's most successful food companies, Olam (www.olamonline.com). A global food supply company in 'agri-products' that got its start in Nigeria, it shows Umoru is on to something - a Southern brand can grow and go global, and overcome the difficulties of cross-border trade in Africa.

Olam currently supplies well-known global food brands including Cadbury (chocolate), Nestle, Lavazza (coffee), Mars (chocolate), Tchibo and Planters (peanuts).

With some 218 million people in Africa -- around 30 percent of the total population -- estimated to be suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition, a thriving local food sector would bring many gains.

Turning to more sophisticated business models offers solutions to chronic problems. With 80 percent of Africa's farms less than two hectares in size - and there are 33 million of them - cereal yields have grown little and are still around 1.2 tonnes per hectare in the region, compared to an average of some 3 tonnes per hectare in the developing world as a whole. Fertilizer consumption was only 13 kg per hectare in sub-Saharan Africa in 2002, compared to 73 kg in the Middle East and North Africa and 190 kg in East Asia and the Pacific. The FAO has estimated that the potential additional land area available for cultivation in sub-Saharan Africa amounts to more than 700 million hectares - a boon to the continent's and the world's food needs in coming years if handled well.

And the demand is there: Between 2001 and 2007, annual increases in the global consumption of agricultural commodities were larger than during the 1980s and 1990s. The quantity of agri-products harvested in the world is 5.2 billion metric tonnes a year.

"I have been able to reach out to so many people across the nation, preaching the agribusiness development and adoption gospel," said Umoru. "I have also worked closely with other youth agencies to empower many more young people to aspire in Nigeria."

One such agency is the Harambe Nigeria Endeavour. Harambe Nigeria (<http://www.hendeavor.org/content/bgroups/nigeria.php>) is a programme designed to stimulate growth in the agricultural sector and open up opportunities for youth to become leaders and entrepreneurs in this area. And this means future young entrepreneurs going into the agricultural sector will not feel as alone as Umoru once did.

As Obinna Ukwuani, creative director of Harambe Nigeria says: "We wish to rectify the tarnished image of agriculture in Nigeria, making it a viable investment for Nigerian youth from all walks of life."

Links

World Vegetable Center: The World Vegetable Center is the world's leading international non-profit research and development institute committed to alleviating poverty and malnutrition in developing countries through vegetable research and development.

Website: <http://www.avrdc.org>

Marketing African Leafy Vegetables: Challenges and Opportunities in the Kenyan Context by Kennedy M. Shiundu and Ruth. K. Oniang.

Website: http://www.ajfand.net/Issue15/PDFs/8%20Shiundu-IPGR2_8.pdf

2050: Africa's Food Challenge: Prospects good, resources abundant, policy must improve: A discussion paper from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Website: <http://www.fao.org/wsfs/forum2050/wsfs-background-documents/issues-briefs/en/>

African Alliance for Capital Expansion: A management consultancy focused on private sector development and agribusiness in West Africa.

Website: <http://www.africanace.com/v3>

Branding Strategy Insider: This blog provides advice and case studies on how to build trust for your brand.

Website: www.brandingstrategyinsider.com

Growing Inclusive Markets, a web portal from UNDP packed with case studies, heat maps and strategies on how to use markets to help the poor.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

Starting a SME (small, medium enterprise): This website is packed with advice and tips for starting a small business and how to grow it with limited resources.

Website: <http://www.smallbusiness.co.uk>

World Business Fair: The World Business Fair is an international trade platform for global entrepreneurs and professionals.

Website: <http://www.worldbusinessfair.com>

Açaí Berry Brazil's Boon

A formerly obscure berry from the Amazon rainforest in Brazil has become a **global marketing success**. The **açaí berry** – a dark, small fruit similar in appearance to blueberries – has surged in popularity around the world and brought newfound prosperity to poor communities.

The **açaí berry** (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Açaí_Palm) has seen its popularity take off because of its purported antioxidant properties (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antioxidants>). It is marketed as a way to reduce cancer and heart disease, although hype has sometimes portrayed the benefits to be higher than scientific studies have found. But whatever the truth of the berry's overall health-giving properties, it has become an economic success story in Brazil.

A rapid success story - **açaí was first exported from Brazil after 2000** - the berry is now sought by health-conscious consumers and the diet industry for its antioxidant properties and slimming effects.

Harvesting the berries is providing poor communities with an alternative source of income in the Amazon rainforest (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_Rainforest). And the successful marketing and selling of the berries offers a good example to others trying to improve profits for agricultural products from the South.

Prior to its global popularity, a bowl of **açaí berries** was a staple for poor families in some parts of Brazil. The pulp is traditionally eaten as a side dish. It is a common sight in Brazil to see street vendors or shops selling crushed **açaí pulp**. Trendier places in Rio de Janeiro sell sweetened **açaí berry smoothies**. In Belem, the capital of Para State, two ice cream chains sell **açaí flavoured ice cream**. A white and purple swirl of **açaí** and **tapioca** is a common favourite. Other treats include **açaí candy** and **açaí tarts** in bakeries.

Some claim the taste of the berry when sweetened is earthy, while left in a natural state it is more grassy. The berry grows wild on palm trees lining rivers or on farms.

Orisvaldo Ferreira de Souza is an **açaí farmer** on the island of Itanduba, an hour by boat from the town of Cametá, population 117,000. **Açaí harvesting** has become the main livelihood for many families in the area. Orisvaldo harvests **açaí** from 8,000 palm trees on a 14 hectare farm.

"Two or three years ago, we had a lot of trouble selling the product," he told the New York Times. "We had to bring it to town, and sometimes we came back without selling it."

But times have changed and the buyers now come to the farmers. "Just yesterday, six buyers came by," he said. "We sold 10 baskets each to two of them."

At the CAMTA cooperative (<http://www.camta.com.br/companyE.htm>) in Tomé-Açu, a town with a population of 40,000, the berry is a significant source of income. The co-op's director, Ivan Saiki, notes the boost to local incomes: **"Before the boom, the harvest came and the açaí was worth practically nothing**. Before, nobody had television, nobody had a motorized canoe. Now many have their own electricity at home. It's greatly improved the life of the river communities."

The co-op has a fruit pulp processing factory to improve the profits for the farmers and, by controlling quality, raise the reputation for their products. In order to avoid over-dependence on one commodity, the co-op members grow many other fruits as well, including papaya, mango, lemons, and local favourites abricó, uxi and bacuri.

Another initiative is Sambazon (Sustainable Management of the Brazilian Amazon) (www.sambazon.com). This small company, founded in 2000, combines business with a partnership to ensure local communities benefit from the berry's success story. Sambazon buys the berries from over 10,000 people in the Amazon and is certified organic (<http://www.organicfarmers.org.uk>). Through its SAP (Sustainable Amazon Partnership), over 1,100 local family farmers are able to harvest **açaí berries as an alternative income source** to logging, cattle ranching and monoculture plantations – all of which are threats to the Amazon rainforest. The company sells a range of products, from sorbet to supplements to juices and energy drinks. It also uses athletes to promote the products and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Other companies like **Açaí Roots** (www.acairoots.com) – founded by three Brazilians in Rio de Janeiro – also associate the product with an overall healthy

lifestyle. It sells drinks, smoothies, energy shots and liquid concentrate. Founded in 2005, it is selling the concept of the healthy Brazilian lifestyle and proudly claims its founders "were born and raised on açai."

Links

Just Food is a web portal packed with the latest news on the global food industry and packed with events and special briefings to fill entrepreneurs in on the difficult issues and constantly shifting market demands.

Website: www.just-food.com

International Cooperative Agricultural Organisation: The ICAO is the democratic organisation representing agricultural co-operatives and farmers worldwide.

Website: <http://www.agricoop.org>

Waitrose Supermarket: It regularly sources fair trade and organic food products from the global South.

Website: <http://www.waitrose.com/index.aspx>

Food Safety – From the Farm to the Fork is the European Commission's guidelines on food safety and how to prepare food for import into the European Community. Website: http://ec.europa.eu/food/international/trade/index_en.htm

An article about research into the berry.

Website: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/10/081006112053.htm>

Book Boom Rides Growing Economies and Cities

Along with growing economies, the global South is seeing growing numbers of readers and a newly flourishing publishing industry. The creative economy – of which book publishing is part – is experiencing a jolt from a combination of expanding economies and urbanizing cities. Just as the first settled cities of ancient Mesopotamia (today's Iraq) spawned literature and learning, so the rapidly urbanizing South is changing dynamics and creating the space and demand for books.

The creative economy is seen as the "interface between creativity, culture, economics and technology in a contemporary world dominated by images, sounds, texts and symbols" (UNCTAD). It has been shown to be an effective way for emerging economies to leapfrog into high-growth areas in the 21st century world economy.

Telling stories about local conditions and people's rapidly changing lives is proving a commercial success formula.

Fast-growing India is forecast to become the largest market for English language books within a decade. India's economic boom, which saw 6.7 percent growth in 2009, and its expanding middle class are driving demand for books. India saw the number of literate people pass 66 percent by 2007.

"It is a forward-looking generation," said Manish Singh, country manager for publisher Harlequin Mills and Boon, to The Guardian newspaper.

Estimates of India's book reading market put the number of readers at just 5 million out of a population of over 1 billion people. But according to Anantha Padmanabhan, the director of sales in India for publisher Penguin, "that is set to increase dramatically."

A survey by Tehelka (<http://www.tehelka.com>) found Indians are favouring stories about local conditions and set in the places where they live.

India's most popular current writer is Chetan Bhagat, a former investment banker. He has sold more than 3 million books in the last five years. His latest, *Two States*, sold a million copies in four months.

Bhagat writes about the country's aspiring middle class. His publisher, Rupa (<http://www.rupapublications.com/Client/home.aspx>), believes he appeals to a "pan-Indian, pan-age group."

Bhagat puts his success down to the way the stories are written. "This is not like the mature English literature market," he said. "It needs an English that is highly accessible, simple, and with stories that are still interesting and relevant."

Book prices in India have stayed affordable for the middle classes. A book can cost from US \$1.85 to US \$2.65 for a paperback – still a high cost for the poor, however, who live on a dollar a day.

In Egypt, around 30 percent of the population is illiterate and book reading has been historically very low: it has been claimed an average literate Egyptian reads a quarter of a page of a novel per year. From this low base, a best seller only needs to sell a few thousand copies.

However, in Egypt small-scale independent publishers are starting to make an impact.

Mohamed Hashem – founder of the Dar Merit publishing house (<http://www.zoominfo.com/Search/ReferencesView.aspx?PersonID=1007104230>) – has built from scratch in 12 years one of the country's most critically acclaimed publishers: all from a tiny apartment in a rundown Cairo building.

"We can't compete with the big firms in terms of profits," he told The Guardian, "but the new wave of authors will always be sitting here. Yes, we have poverty and limited resources. But we also have the future."

Launched to counter what Hashem felt was an unimaginative book market, his stable of authors have shaken up the Arabic fiction world. The global success of Alaa al-Aswany's *The Yacoubian Building* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Yacoubian_Building) is proof Hashem's gamble on edgy talent was correct: rejected by two government-run publishing houses, the book went on to be a hit in English and Arabic and has been made into a film.

Hashem is being credited with unleashing a wave of new talented authors that has pushed literature out from being the preserve of a select group.

One of its successful authors, Hamdi Abu Golayyel – winner of the country's top literary prize, the Naquib Mahfouz medal – believes "Merit has changed the way pioneering literature emerges in Egypt."

"Before, you had the innovative writers – there are normally no more than five or six in a generation – meeting together in mutual isolation, because popular opinion rejected them." Merit "had the drive and ambition to support and distribute new and younger authors properly. Today innovative writing is wanted by the people."

Hashem's secret in attracting talented writers has been more than just business savvy: he also gives them "the freedom to write in my own way," according to writer Ahmed Alaidy. The writers also have a credibility advantage: they are writing about their circumstances rather than just imagining what it would be like. Writer Hani Abdel Mourid comes from Cairo's traditional garbage-collecting neighbourhood; another author, Mohamed Salah Al Azab, has written a book named after the folding seats on Egypt's lively minibuses.

Demographic changes and Cairo's relentless expansion are being cited as the catalyst for the new writing.

"The fact that the city has grown the way it has," says Samia Mehrez, a literature professor in Cairo, "the fact that what we used to call the periphery is now the centre, that is very important."

"The year we started, we published five titles and the number of people interested could be counted in the dozens," he told The Guardian. "Now we have 600 titles under our belt, and thousands are interested. It's my duty to try and expand that circle. We're chipping away at a wall, and slowly we're making progress."

Links

Creative Economy Report 2008. An economic and statistical assessment of creative industries world-wide as well as an overview of how developing countries can benefit from trade in creative products and services produced by UNCTAD and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP.

Website: http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ditc20082cer_en.pdf

Global Creative Economy Convergence Summit 2009: The summit is about the successful and emerging creative technologies and initiatives that are driving economic growth locally, nationally and internationally.

Website: <http://www.gcecs2009.com/>

A directory of Indian publishers. Website:

Website: <http://www.publishersglobal.com/directory/publishers-by-country.asp?publishers-of=India>

Full Circle Publishing: A successful Indian publishing company.

Website: <http://www.atfullcircle.com/>

Window on the World

BOOKS

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development

• **Publisher:** Making Cents International

Website: <http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org>

War Games: The Story of Aid and War in Modern Times

by Linda Polman Publisher: Viking

Website:

• www.amazon.com

Losing Control: The Emerging Threats to Western Prosperity

by Stephen D King, Publisher: Yale

Website: www.amazon.com

The Global Economic Crisis: The Great Depression of the XXI Century

by Michel Chossudovsky and Andrew Gavin Marshall, Publisher: Global Research.

Website: <http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10>

Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity

by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan

Website: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073>

The Violence of Financial Capitalism

by Christian Marazzi, Publisher: MIT Press

Website: <http://mitpress.mit.edu>

Bonfire of Illusions: The Twin Crises of the Liberal World

by Alex Callinicos, Publisher: John Wiley and Sons

Website: www.politybooks.com

In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World

by Judith A. Carney and Richard Nicholas Rosomoff, Publisher: University of California Press

Website: <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/11239.php>

Democracy and Other Neoliberal Fantasies

by Jodi Dean, Publisher: Duke University Press

Website: www.combinedacademic.co.uk

Technocapitalism: A Critical Perspective on Technological Innovation and Corporatism

by Luis Suarez-Villa, Publisher: Temple University Press

Website: www.combinedacademic.co.uk

Terrorism and the Economy: How the War on Terror is Bankrupting the World

by Loretta Napoleoni, Publisher: Seven Stories Press

Website: www.amazon.com

The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between the Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World

by Jacqueline Novogratz, Publisher: Acumen Fund

Website: <http://www.acumenfund.org/bluesweater/>

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind

by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press

Website: http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability

by Erik Assadourian & Staff, Publisher: Worldwatch Institute, 2010

Website: <http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit?

by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development

Website: http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

PAPERS

African Poverty is Falling...Much Faster than You Think!

by Xavier Sala-i-Martin and Maxim Pinkovskiy, Publisher: The National Bureau of Economic Research.

The conventional wisdom that Africa is not reducing poverty is wrong. African poverty is falling and is falling rapidly, and if present trends continue, the poverty Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people with incomes less than one dollar a day will be achieved on time.

Website: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w15775>

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries

Publisher: OECD

Website: <http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en>

(PDF - 2.09 mb)

Trends in South African Income Distribution and Poverty since the Fall of Apartheid

Publisher: OECD

Website: <http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmms0t7p1ms-en>

The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050

by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation.

Working Paper: *Shifting Global Power*

Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world.

This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy.

Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada

Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: *Shifting Global Power*

This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development.

Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

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The MDGs and Beyond: Pro-Poor Policy in a Changing World

by Andy Summer and Claire Melamed, Publisher: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.

Website: <http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv06n03page5sumnermelamed.html>

WEB BASED ARTICLES

The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth"

Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010

Website: http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf

Africa begins to make poverty history

US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case.

Website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history>

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment

Website: <http://triplecrisis.com/>

Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity

by Dr Jing Gu

Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa.

Website: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity>

Human Development Report 2009 Publisher: United Nations Development Programme

The Report explores how better policies towards mobility can enhance human development

Website: www.unp.un.org

China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities

by Leslie Chang, Publisher: Picador.

Website: www.amazon.com

When China Rules the World

by C. Fred Bergstan, Charles Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek J. Mitchell, Publisher: Peterson Institute for International Economics

Website: www.piie.com

Peoplequake: Mass Migration, Ageing Nations and the Coming Population Crash

by Fred Pearce, Publisher: Eden Project

Website: www.amazon.com

Raising the Global Floor: Dismantling the Myth That We Can't Afford Good Working Conditions for Everyone

by Jody Heyman and Alison Earle, Publisher: Stanford University Press

Website: www.sup.org

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Publisher: Knopf

Website: www.amazon.com

Gravity Shift: How Asia's New Economic Powerhouses Will Shape

the 21st Century

by Wendy Dobson, Publisher: Rotman UTP

Website: www.utpublishing.com

Top African Banker Defends Investment from China

by Anne Seith, Publisher: Spiegel Online

Website: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0.1518.674887.00.html#ref=nlint>

Africa: Africa's Counter-Cyclical Policy Responses to the Crisis

by Louis Kasekende, Zuzana Brixova and Leonce Ndikumana, *Journal of Globalization and Development*, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 2010, Article 16

Website: <http://www.afdb.org>

Upcoming Events

May

Expo 2010 Shanghai China

Shanghai, China (1 May to 31 October 2010)

UN-HABITAT AND the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Global South Creative Economy exhibition in the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

The Global South Creative Economy exhibition will depict how the creative economy is an engine for better livable cities with better lifestyles for all in alignment with the Shanghai World Expo 2010 theme: Better City, Better Life. Whenever these goals are achieved, people are at centre stage and involved in activities that use creativity as a main resource. The creative economy can be an important driver for economic growth and the agenda, represented at this exhibition, takes a broader view, asserting that long-term sustainable development can be achieved by effectively utilising creative assets.

Website: <http://en.expo2010.cn/>

Bioenergy Markets Africa 2010

Maputo, Mozambique (11-13 May 2010)

The event offers an integrated solution of brand positioning, business development and face-to-face networking opportunities with senior decision makers. Sustainable bioenergy remains a key part of the global energy solution and East & Southern Africa represents a nascent marketplace. The growing demand for biofuels has sparked a green revolution in Africa and a frenzy of biofuel crop planting and investment. Despite these opportunities there are still several challenges that remain before the region can fully benefit: Food vs. fuel – bioenergy needs to be produced in a sustainable manner, water availability – management of this resource is key, land tenure – developing best practice to balance the needs of investors with small farmers, scale of production – incorporating cooperative models, lack of infrastructure – investments are required to expand production. Knowledge base – new information systems with timely data on potential, water availability and agronomic techniques, life cycle analysis – applications must ensure GHG reductions, Policy – the need for a clear guidelines and incentives.

Website: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/v8-12/Prospectus/Index.php?sEventCode=BF1002MZ>

Challenge Bibendum – Rio 2010

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (30 May to 2 June 2010)

Ever since the inaugural edition in 1998, Challenge Bibendum has set out to provide a forum which addresses road transport issues (energy supply and associated geo-political tensions, greenhouse gas emissions, road safety, urban pollution and traffic congestion) at all levels and has worked with a wide range of transport stakeholders to mobilise support to speed up the implementation of all possible solutions for a more sustainable road mobility.

Website: www.challengebibendum.com

June

Green Business Africa Summit and Expo 2010

Nairobi, Kenya (2-4 June 2010)

The Green Business Africa Summit & Expo will bring to the mainstream issues around sustainability in the business environment as well as green corporate social responsibility (CSR). The Summit will provide business leaders at all levels with insight in developing and enhancing profitable and sustainable business enterprises and practices.

Website: www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com

Footprint Forum 2010: Meet the Winners of the 21st Century

Colle di Val d'Elsa, Italy (7-12 June 2010)

The Forum Roundtables are a series of fast-paced, highly interactive conversations on

critical topics, designed to move the sustainability agenda forward during a time of increasing resource constraints. The aim of the sessions is to overcome barriers to action, fill gaps in knowledge, and identify strategies that inspire further sustainability investments and bring about systemic change.

Website:

http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/footprint_forum_intro/

Sustainable Ocean Summit 2010

Belfast, UK (15-17 June 2010)

Leaders from ocean industries dependent on marine space, services and resources will gather to develop cross-sectoral business action on Corporate Ocean Responsibility, as part of the global industry alliance on ocean sustainability catalyzed by the World Ocean Council. Sustainable Ocean Summit participants will include: shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, marine tourism, renewable ocean energy, shipbuilding, marine technology, ports, dredging, seabed mining, seabed cables/pipelines, and others, as well as maritime insurance, finance and legal services.

Website: www.oceancouncil.org

UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010

New York, USA (24-25 June 2010)

The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010 will bring together leaders from all sectors to elevate the role of responsible business and investment in bringing about the needed transformation to more sustainable and inclusive markets.

Website:

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/2010_Leaders_Summit/index.html

International Water Week: Singapore 2010

Singapore (28 June to 2 July 2010)

The Singapore International Water Week is the global platform that brings policymakers, industry leaders, experts and practitioners together to address challenges, showcase technologies, discover opportunities and celebrate achievements in the water world. Singapore International Water Week 2010, aptly themed Sustainable Cities: Clean and Affordable Water.

Website: <http://www.siww.com.sg/about-singapore-international-water-week>

The Green Enterprise World Forum

London, UK (30 June 2010)

A one day conference and Exhibition dedicated to Green IT and Sustainable Computing. Hear from leading case studies on how they have integrated Green Computing into their working practices. Find out how Green IT can create competitive advantage and improve your bottom line, learn from the key stakeholders in the industry and network with leading platform and service operators.

Website: <http://www.greenenterpriseforum.com/>

July

Investing in Developing Markets – The Role of Domestic Financial Markets in Low and Middle Income Countries

London, UK (1 July 2010)

Developing the financial sector in emerging and developing markets. Now that investors are refocusing on emerging and developing markets, the time is right to discuss how to strengthen the financial sector and develop the financial markets in these economies. Investors and governments share an interest in exploring ways to improve investment flows and returns.

Website: http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/developing_markets/

UN Development Cooperation Forum

New York, USA (TBC July 2010)

The biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is one of the principal new functions of a strengthened Economic and Social Council. Mandated to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it, the DCF will be held every other year within the framework of the High-level Segment of the Council.

Website: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfuncnt/develop.shtml>

TED Global 2010: And Now the Good News

Oxford, UK (12-16 July 2010)

TEDGlobal 2010, held over the course of four days in Oxford, will explore the shocking undercurrent of good news just below the surface of today's troubling headlines. Headlines remind us daily of the political, economic and environmental woes facing the planet. But behind the scenes lie an amazing array of new ideas, new science, new technology, new social and political thinking, new art and a new understanding of who we are. When you put it all together, an entirely more hopeful view of the future emerges. Many of the remarkable architects of that future -- those who are pushing the boundaries of what is known and expanding the possible -- will join us at TEDGlobal 2010, from all over the world. We will make a full announcement of the program in the months leading up to the conference.

August

Have an even in August you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com

September

World Water Week 2010

Stockholm, Sweden (5-11 September 2010)

The Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between the scientific, business, policy and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, economic and poverty reduction agendas.

Website: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

Millennium Development Goals Summit

New York, USA (20-22 September 2010)

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs. Read the Secretary-General's report, "Keeping the Promise", which serves as the basis for Member States' deliberations on an action-oriented outcome document for the Summit. It identifies successes and gaps, and lays out an agenda for 2010-2015. "Our world possesses the knowledge and resources to achieve the MDGs," Mr. Ban says in the report. Falling short of the Goals "would be an unacceptable failure, moral and practical."

Website: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

October

Asia Microfinance Forum 2010

Colombo, Sri Lanka (12-15 October 2010)

This milestone event will bring together leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas, opportunities and partnerships. The BWTP network actively promotes the development of microfinance in Asia through research, advocacy, policy dialogue, information sharing and capacity building.

Website: <http://www.bwtp.org/news/?p=129>

November

Water Investment World Africa 2010

Johannesburg, South Africa (8-11 November 2010)

The Conference is positioned to the decision makers in this sector. With over 340million people in Africa without access to water and African governments' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a lot needs to be accomplished in a very short time in this sector.

Website: <http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/waterza/>

December

International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development

London, UK (13-16 December 2010)

CALL FOR PAPERS: The call for papers and sessions at ICTD2010 has recently been announced - with a deadline for submissions of 2nd April 2010.

The conference is the latest in the series of highly successful international ICTD conferences held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the field.

Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, demos and sessions in both Spanish and French. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds.

ICTD2010 is being hosted by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and the multidisciplinary ICT4D Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London's magnificent campus situated only 20 minutes from London's Heathrow airport.

Website: <http://www.ictd2010.org/>

APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011:

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony.

Transitions Online (TOL) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2009 TOL Photo Competition.

The topic is "20 Years After the Fall of the Iron Curtain", and TOL encourages participants to submit photographs that best capture the changes over the past 20 years in Central and Eastern Europe.

DEADLINE: December 13, 2009.

Website: <http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00>

Website: <http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?>

[IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946](http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946)

African Economic Outlook

EDUCATING AFRICA: Pan African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education 2009

Now in its third year, the EDUCATING AFRICA Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education continue to seek to identify the very best organizations which have risen to this challenge; to highlight their models, and to reward their achievements. As well as a first prize of \$10,000 and two runners-up prizes of \$5,000, there are up to 50 awards of \$1,000 available for the best entry from every country on the continent.

DEADLINE: December 31, 2009

Website: <http://bit.ly/3rtAQT>

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

MobileTech4SocialChange

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

Training Opportunities

Ongoing

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Website: www.grameen-info.org

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: ocw.mit.edu

Sustainable Tourism Criteria

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have

emerged that reach that target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.
Website: <http://rs6.net>

Careers

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers.

AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and ra@sum.a preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: bizzlounge.com

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: businessfightspoverty.ning.com

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest collectively our world

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: topics.developmentgateway.org

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: community.eldis.org

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: edexchange.seepnetwork.org

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Website: [Africa](#) | [Middle East and North Africa](#) | [Asia](#)

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: www.ledknowledge.org

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: profiles.takingitglobal.org

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: www.xing.com/

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan

Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: www.afdevinfo.com

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

Fellowship Opportunities

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org/

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Website: pioneersofprosperity.org

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: www.trustafrica.org

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

Email: namstct@vsnl.com

Website: www.scidev.net

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of **£2,000** in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the world's first global youth development competition.

Website: [More Information](#)

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

Website: www.openarchitecturenetwork.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

[Website: http://genesis.iitm.ac.in](http://genesis.iitm.ac.in)

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

[Website: www.echoinggreen.org](http://www.echoinggreen.org)

Funding

UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation

The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

[Website: www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

Funding - Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

[Website: www.google.org](http://www.google.org)

Challenge InnoCentive

A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

[Website: http://www.innocentive.com](http://www.innocentive.com)

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

[Website: http://www.socialledge.org](http://www.socialledge.org)

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta [cosmas.gitta@undp.org] Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation